Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 MC-01 ACDA-10 EB-04 /049 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4106

INFO SEMBASSY BRASILIA 457

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CONFIDENTIAL GEORGETOWN 0205

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AIRPORT AND MILITARY BASE

REF: 76 GEORGETOWN 2471

MILITARY BASE CONSTRUCTION DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL PILOTS ON JANUARY 23. AN AREA WHICH LIES NEAR DORA, GUYANA, HAS RECENTLY BEEN CLEARED AND APPEARS TO BE THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRSTRIP.

THE AREA CLEARED IS IN LINE WITH MAGNETIC EAST AND WEST AND IS ABOUT 12,000 FEET LONG. THE PILOTS NOTED THAT THE PREVAILING WINDS IN THAT AREA COINCIDE WITH THE AXIS OF THE CLEARED AREA. HOWEVER, SINCE THE INITIAL WORK WAS COMPLETED ON THE SITE, THERE HAS CONFIDENTIAL

1. EMBASSY OFFICER LEARNED OF NEW AIRPORT AND

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BEEN NO INDICATION THAT FURTHER CONSTRUCTION HAS TAKEN PLACE.

2. THE MOST EXPERIENCED OF THE PILOTS, AN EMPLOYEE OF GUYANA AIRWAYS CORPORATION, STATED THAT THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE HAS BEEN PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY BASE AND MILITARY AIRPORT

APART FROM THE CIVILIAN AIR FACILITIES PRESENTLY LOCATED AT TIMEHRI. ACCORDING TO THIS PILOT, DURING THE CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA, THE GUYANA GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO BEGIN PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY AIRSTRIP AND BASE, WHOSE OPERATION WOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY. HE FEELS THAT THIS CLEARED AREA IS A PART OF A MILITARY COMPLEX WHICH IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE DORA AREA.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE CLEARING AT DORA, ONE PILOT SAID THAT THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE HAS STOCKPILED LARGE SIZE WOODEN CRATES IN THE VICINITY OF MACKENSIE. THESE CRATES WERE RECENTLY DELIVERED CLANDESTINELY FROM CUBA ON GUYANESE FISHING TRAWLERS. THE CRATES ARE ABOUT 12X12X12 FEET IN SIZE AND ARE SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN ARTILLERY PIECES. (COMMENT: IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT GUYANA RECENTLY RECEIVED A SHIPMENT OF SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM CUBA.) BLACKEN

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